

*Non-Profit Corporations*

have flexible and extensive management powers, subject, of course, to the right of members to verify any abuse on the part of the directors and subject to their right to take an active part in management.

Mr. Speaker, this bill, as it stands today, is the result of many consultations. Its content is similar to that of three previous bills: S-3, S-4 and S-7. All three were considered by the Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce, passed by the Senate and subsequently tabled in the House of Commons.

[English]

In fact, Mr. Speaker, the bill before us tonight is exactly the same legislation word for word, as which was introduced in 1979 by my predecessor, the current hon. member for Durham-Northumberland (Mr. Lawrence).

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** It is a fine bill.

[Translation]

**Mr. Ouellet:** At the time the bill was being drafted, briefs were submitted by representatives of various key groups with an interest in the bill. In fact, between December, 1977, and February, 1978, the Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce heard witnesses from the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, the Quebec Chamber of Commerce, the Toronto Board of Trade, the Institute of Association Executives and the Canadian Red Cross Society. These associations want this legislation, and in fact, Mr. Speaker, they have been waiting for it for a long time. Finally, the bill has the same objectives as Bill S-3, Bill S-4 and Bill S-7, that is, to establish a system in which members are treated equitably and are able to make an effective contribution to the administration of the corporation's internal affairs, and managers are free to pursue the objectives of their corporation. I therefore recommend that the members of this House support the bill.

● (2130)

[English]

**Mr. Nielsen:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I want to say, better late than never.

**Mr. Albert Cooper (Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, I take pleasure in having the opportunity to speak on this bill tonight. Somehow when one talks of charitable organizations, many images come to mind. We think of clubs, such as the Lions and the Kinsmen. We think of church organizations. But at the same time we think of other groups and the abuses that have occurred under the umbrella entitled charitable organizations. I think of groups such as the Moonies. I can think of kidnapping, brainwashing and programming and all those sorts of things that we have heard on the news lately. There is no doubt that is all part of this particular piece of legislation we are addressing tonight. It is a part of it, but it is not all of it.

First, I would like to look at what we would be dealing with, the purpose of laws when they are put before Parliament and what happens when we try to have them enacted into legisla-

tion. One of the first things we do in any law is to protect the innocent. We dealt with that earlier tonight when we spoke about rape laws, laws that affect sexual conduct and sexual offences. We think of criminal law. The primary focus and purpose of much of our criminal law is to deal with crimes perpetrated on innocent people.

The second aspect of any law is probably to preserve the interests of our society. In other words, if we were to look at it in this country, it is to encourage the development of a Canadian way of life, a Canadian lifestyle, a Canadian framework for our organizations.

The third element of any law is probably to ensure order and peace, basically to have a peaceful environment. The fourth one is a difficult one and one with which parliamentarians must always grapple, that is the idea of ensuring majority rule, but at the same time going to great lengths and being very careful to protect the rights, the concerns, the difficulties and the problems that minorities face. With that in mind, I think we have to look at this particular piece of legislation.

Bill C-10, an act respecting Canadian non-profit organizations does try to protect the innocent. There are several clauses in the bill which deal with protection, the protection of the membership and its members from abuse, from difficulties and from disputes. That is one of the primary focuses of this bill.

The second purpose of any good legislation is to preserve the interests of our society. In other words, what we will try to achieve in our charitable organizations. We would look to encourage honesty. We would look to encourage legitimacy. We would look to encourage consistency in terms of the Canadian way of life and the principles and the objects that we would consider important with what we as Canadians view as right and would like to see reflected in our legislation.

The third aim of good legislation which we must consider is to attempt to ensure order and peace. Again, this legislation tries to deal with that. It would try to discourage societies that would be violent and basically dishonest, abusing the principles of a charitable organization or generally doing anything that would disrupt what we consider good order, good government and good opportunity within our government.

The fourth purpose is to deal with the attempt to ensure majority rule, but at the same time to try to protect the minority. As we study Bill C-10, we see there is plenty of room left to protect individual members from their own organization. They have plenty of opportunities through this bill to appeal to the courts, so much so that I begin to have some concerns about this part of the legislation.

After having looked briefly at the laws and our purposes for laws and what this legislation tries to reflect, what we must do is try to have a look at the purposes of charitable organizations as we see them. We should look at the importance and the role they play within our society.

The first purpose of a charitable organization—and I say first although that necessarily does not mean it is the first order of priority—would be what one would call fellowship, in other words, companionship among members, a sense of